



# East Kern Co. RACES/ARES

Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service  
Amateur Radio Emergency Service



I am an amateur radio operator. My FCC call is KK6PA. I am the Emergency Coordinator for the East Kern County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (EKC ARES) and the Radio Officer the East Kern County Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (EKC RACES).

President Bush is wrong in pushing low cost Internet via Broadband over Power Lines (BPL). It will not get Internet capability to rural areas. BPL only travels for a few thousand feet. An amplifier will then have to be installed to go further. It is not economical for the businesses to install all of these amplifiers to provide service to rural areas. The great and wonderful plan to provide cheap Internet access to everyone can not be accomplished via BPL without hurting a very large portion of voting citizens. It must be accomplished by other means.

BPL is not going to be nice and non-interfering like the businesses say it will be. Case in point is the electrical distribution companies. There is a federal law that says their power lines will not interfere with RF reception. For the most part, that law is a farce and is unenforceable. One: the FCC does not respond to 99% of the complaints. Two: The power companies will rarely respond and if they respond they then claim they can't find the problem(s) OR say it's the whole system that's noisy and we don't have the money to build a complete new system. So BOTH the FCC and the power companies resolve only the problems that are severe, widespread, located in a major metropolitan areas AND when they get thousands of complaints.

The same thing will occur with BPL only worse. BPL is RF energy and the power lines are antennas. The BPL proponents say, "We can notch out interference on specific frequencies." They can NOT! They will NOT! This has been proven time and again at test sites throughout this country and overseas.

BPL will severely increase the noise on all of the RF bands AND the BPL companies will not fix it. They tried to fix their problem very willingly during displays, demonstrations and trial periods and have failed. However, once they get permission to proceed, even that willingness will disappear and use of ALL of the frequencies between 2 MHz and 80 MHz will be ended for all but the most powerful radio transmissions. This is not just a bald, unsupported statement. This has been technically proven over and over. The FCC will not be able to do anything about it either.

Amateur Radio is the PRIME communications during a disaster. Short-range communication frequencies such as those above 80 MHz (VHF) WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE during major disasters. Any repeaters normally used will not be useable. This will limit VHF to about 20 or so miles, line-of-sight, with high power base stations and only about 3-5 miles and less when there are obstructions. The range is less with small hand transmitters (HT). Only the long-range frequencies (HF) will be capable of providing emergency communications outside of a disaster area. Amateur Radio has always come through for the public during disasters. If BPL is allowed, that will no longer be true.

PLEASE!! Do not support BPL. It will stop amateur radio's capability to respond to disasters. Don't let Big Money Politics override real-life common technical sense. BPL WILL NOT WORK REGARDLESS OF WHAT THE PROPONENTS SAY.

Sincerely,

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